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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6426

BILL NUMBER: SB 365

NOTE PREPARED: Dec 14, 2006

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Discharge of Long-Term Inmates.

FIRST AUTHOR: Sen. Bowser

FIRST SPONSOR:

BILL STATUS: As Introduced

FUNDS AFFECTED: X **GENERAL**
DEDICATED
FEDERAL

IMPACT: State

Summary of Legislation: This bill requires the Department of Correction to provide for an automatic, one-time review of a long-term inmate's sentence to determine whether the inmate has been rehabilitated and has suitable plans that would warrant discharge from custody.

Effective Date: July 1, 2007.

Explanation of State Expenditures: Depending on the decisions made by the sentence review panel, this bill could reduce the number of offenders in Department of Correction (DOC) facilities in the long term and increase the number of offenders who may need to be supervised on parole. Operations of a review panel may involve some meeting and travel reimbursement costs based on panel membership as determined by the DOC.

The following table shows the number of offenders who have been incarcerated for 25 years or more and would be eligible for this hearing in each of the next three fiscal years.

FY	Number of Offenders Eligible	Average Age	Those Who Are Sex Offenders	Those with GED or High School Diploma or Post-Secondary Degree	Counties from Which These Offenders Were Sentenced
2008	272	50.9	39	189	54
2009	49	53	10	36	16
2010	50	53	11	31	18

Other criteria DOC may consider include, but are not limited to, a good conduct history during confinement, assurance of suitable living quarters when the offender is released, and proof of job offers from local employers where the offender would reside. Depending on the number of offenders who are released, the state could save approximately \$12,775 per offender based on the \$35 per diem that the Department of Correction pays county sheriffs to house offenders.

More offenders being released may increase parole expenses if more sex offenders are released early and need to be supervised. Under IC 35-50-6-1(d), sex offenders may be assigned parole supervision for up to ten years. (The number of adult offenders on parole was 7,248 offenders on July 1, 2006, as compared to 2,748 adults in 1995.)

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures:

Explanation of Local Revenues: See *Explanation of State Expenditures*.

State Agencies Affected: Department of Correction.

Local Agencies Affected: Counties.

Information Sources: Offenders in DOC facilities on December 1, 2006.

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